Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing polyethylene glycol, comprising the steps of:

distilling a triethylene glycol from a glycol mixture consisting essentially of mono-, di-, triethylene glycol and higher glycols, at a pressure of from 5 to 10 hPa and a temperature of from 140 to 160°C,

ethoxylating the triethylene glycol in the presence of a basic catalyst to form a polyethylene glycol,

~~with a~~ wherein the polyethylene glycol has a residual content of less than 30 ppm aldehyde, determined as formaldehyde as specified ~~by in Ph. Eur.~~ European Pharmacopoeia, "macrogols" monograph 07/2003:1444~~, by ethoxylation of triethylene glycol in the presence of a basic catalyst, which comprises a triethylene glycol which is obtained by distillation from a glycol mixture consisting substantially of mono-, di-, triethylene glycol and higher glycols, at a pressure of from 5 to 10 hPa and a temperature of from 140 to 160°C, being emplolyed~~.

2. (currently amended) A process according to ~~The process as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a residual content of less than 15 ppm aldehyde.

3. (currently amended) A process according to ~~The process as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molar mass of from 190 to 40 000.

4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~The process as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molar mass of from 190 to 210.

5. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 1, ~~The process for preparing polyethylene glycol as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, by ethoxylation of triethylene glycol in the presence of a basic catalyst, wherein a~~ wherein the triethylene glycol ~~which~~ is obtained by distillation from a glycol mixture consisting essentially ~~substantially~~ of mono-, di-, triethylene glycol and higher glycols, at a pressure of 5 hPa and a temperature of 140°C~~, being emplolyed~~.

6. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 1, ~~The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the basic catalyst is a dried alkali metal hydroxide or alkaline earth metal hydroxide ~~being emplolyed as basic catalyst~~.

7. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 1, ~~The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the basic catalyst is dried sodium hydroxide ~~being emplolyed as basic catalyst~~.

8. (currently amended) ~~A product obtainable by a process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ A polyethylene glycol produced by a process in accordance with Claim 1.

9. (cancelled)

10. (new) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an active ingredient wherein the active ingredient is a polyethylene glycol as claimed in Claim 8.

11. (new) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an auxiliary wherein the auxiliary is a polyethylene glycol as claimed in Claim 8.